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General Mining News

A mining property in California can not be attached or held for any debt contracted by its holder or leaser if the owners have given due public notice that they would not be responsible for labor or supplies furnished such holder or leaser. "Due public notice" would consist in stating the exact facts connected therewith, in writing, posting such notice conspicuously on the premises and publishing it in the nearest papers.—M. & S. Press.

"Trust" methods were recently well illustrated in the case of the American Smelting & Refining Co., in Colorado, which was unable after many weeks of controversy with producing miners to determine whether it could or could not pay 28¢ per ounce for gold, but twenty-four hours after the Guggenheims had announced their intent to pay that amount the trust managers discovered that they could also do so. The Guggenheims in Colorado seem to be useful as discouragers of hesitancy.—M. & S. Press.

The Hancock Copper Journal prints a letter from W. B. Carlyle, superintendent of the Rio Tinto mines in Spain, and formerly in this country, written to an American friend: "This is a monster. There are 135,000,000 tons of ore in sight, of which we must extract 2,000,000 tons this year. We have a very good railroad 375 miles long, with 30 locomotives on the main line and 50 at the mine, and this year we will handle 50,000 tons of ore. There are very extensive underground works. The other day down on the 1,200 foot level, I was shown a solid body of ore 600 feet wide. There are 10,000 Spaniards at work. We only pay here from 50 cents to 85 cents per day.

Quite an excitement prevails at Lamb City, near Dos Cabezas, says a writer in the Range News, owing to a rich strike of gold bearing quartz found on the Emmerley claim a day or two ago. The assay shows for the entire ledge a value of over 1128 to the ton. A streak in the open cut at a depth of about 8 feet and about six inches wide shows an assay of 3588 gold. A force of men will be put on this week and a car of this ore shipped which is believed will show up satisfactory values. The naked eye can see the free gold, and from this cut old man Emmerley is said to have taken several tons of ore which netted him over 1500\$ to the car.

The Star learned the following interesting facts from a Bisbee mining man who has just returned from a trip to the Montezuma mining district in Sonora: Bisbee Copper Co. has bought a group of gold mines located about 15 miles from Placeritas, Sonora. The price paid was 150,000\$ in gold; they have also lauded another rich group for 125,000\$. The company is spending a large amount of money in developing their copper properties at Placeritas. Their mines are said to be among the richest copper mines yet discovered. They are putting in a concentrating plant with a daily capacity of 450 tons, which will be working within two months. A narrow gauge road has also been put in. The Arizona Copper Mining and Smelting Co. through its Supt. A. C. Fenner, has located some five copper properties in this district, one of the properties is bonded for 50,000\$, the others for 40,000\$.

The one perpendicular shaft in the Calumet runs down a distance of three-quarters of a mile. The sinking of this shaft was the greatest piece of modern engineering known, says the Western Mining World. The management figured that if the copper vein dipped at an angle of 43 degrees from the surface and kept it for a great distance down, it would certainly be caught by running straight down from the surface if a shaft were sunk a distance from the others. This was done and after three years of sinking and encountering nothing but earth, the copper was struck. The miners working from a drift in the perpendicular shaft and those working from the other direction, came together one day, and the picks struck within an inch of

the surveyors' underground estimate. Now a man can go down the shaft a mile in a perpendicular shaft, cross over in a drift and come up on the surface two miles from where he started on top of the ground, the most novel underground promenade in America.

A drop of nearly 1 cent per pound in the price of lead during the month is noticeable. While the present price is considerably better than that of August 2, 1896, when it was 2.50\$ per hundred pounds, yet its sudden tumble from the 4.75\$ of a few weeks ago is dispiriting to producers. The cause of the drop is purely arbitrary; it is done solely because the controlling trust has the power to put the price up or down at the will of its directors. It is now characteristic of the managers of any of the great trusts to use their power to affect stocks, as in the recent case of J. W. Gates of the American Steel & Wire Co. There is no legitimate trade reason for the drop in lead. There is a steady demand, and the uses to which it is adapted are multiplying. Tariff protection is a good thing, but its good effects should be extended to the ore producers. When the smelter combine was formed one of the arrangements was that it would reduce the cost to the consumer and permit the miner to get more for his ore. The result is just the reverse—the consumer is paying more, the miner getting less. The import duty is a help, but its helpful effect should be more mutual. Just now it is decidedly one-sided.—M. & S. Press.

Prospectors Mistakes.

Many prospectors, especially those in quest of free gold, overlook valuable claims by placing too much dependence upon the mortar and pan. While, as a general rule, ores in gold-bearing districts show some free gold, it does not follow that all the values lie in that portion that is obtained in the horn.

Ores containing silver values may at the same time contain enough gold that is not free, to justify terming them gold ores. Again there are a great many ores in which the gold, though practically free, is in such a fine state of division as to show not even a color by the horn test.

Some ores rich in gold would not be noticed by a regular prospector, for the reason that it has more the appearance of country rock than would be supposed to carry gold.

Some of our richest mines have as gangue rock ordinary brown or iron-stained limestone. Some have as matrix nothing but common brown or iron-stained porphyry, which may be in the shape of small ledges a few feet in width or in larger dykes or reefs 50 to 100 feet wide or even wider, still they carry gold values sufficient to make them good paying mines—in fact, almost any kind of rock may carry gold in profitable quantities.

Another class of mines that the prospector looking for gold would be very apt to pass by as beneath his notice are those of such magnitude that the very idea of their being worthy of investigation would be considered by him as preposterous. Large belts of schist containing numerous streaks and lenses of quartz, although apparently barren, may contain gold enough to make them veritable bonanzas. The gold may be free or the values may lie wholly, or nearly so, in small particles of sulphurets widely disseminated through the rock, both in the quartz and country rock, or in either. The majority of the dividend-paying gold mines of today are just such propositions. They are, to be sure, mostly very low grade, but they are the kind of mines that capital is looking for.

There are also waiting to be discovered and opened base propositions that most prospectors consider as worthless simply because they are base.

If the prospector is of the free gold type he will not even know that they contain gold at all, but will let them lie and move on to some section where the ores are not base. If he happens instead to be a man who considers it worth while to have the ore assayed,

he will know that the bases carry values high enough perhaps to make them profitable, providing they were free, but as the ore is base he passes on. Where the latter makes his mistake is in not considering the fact that in this age of machinery and improved appliances so-called base ores are made to pay a profit, whereas a few years ago were the same values in the shape of free gold they could not be handled at a profit.

It is well for a prospector, before starting out, to consider that a mine will pay:

First—Though small, if rich enough, though if low grade if large enough. The exercise of a little judgment will enable him to determine the medium of the two extremes. He must leave a large margin in determining the relative limit in size and richness of his ore body. Better far to be prejudiced against the probability of his undertaking proving valuable, if he desires to be on the safe side.

Second—He should not rely upon a horn test, but consider that although a few assays will cost him a certain amount of money, it is, nevertheless, far cheaper to know definitely the value of his ore than to spend his time upon something it were better to let alone, or to leave something valuable and not know it to look for something better.

Third—Let him realize that if there is anything in his line of which he is ignorant and in doubt in the matter of actual economic value of certain classes of ores, there are hundreds of men who can and will enlighten him if he will but enquire. There is hardly a question he could ask in relation to his business but that could be answered in the columns of the Mining and Scientific Press.

Fourth—In seeking to sell a prospect, or in trying to interest capital, he should by all means state the facts as he knows them and leave it to the investor to theorize and draw his own conclusion. No prospector ever yet aided his cause by misrepresenting anything in connection with his claim. No investor ever examined a claim which he found to have been willfully misrepresented, who did not go away disgusted.

Fifth—and perhaps not least, the

prospector should not confine himself to hunting for quartz, but any kind of rock out of the ordinary, of which there appears to be less than a mountain, should be considered worthy of investigation, for the mine of the future will be one that has been overlooked, simply because it is different from the usual run of things.—Mining and Scientific Press.

Arizona and Her Minerals.

No portion of the western continent is more prolific in concealed wonders of nature in the mineral line than Arizona; her hills are seamed with the richest of gold and silver ore; copper is found in remarkable deposits; from the Grand Canyon of the Colorado on the north to the international line on the south, not a mountain range is known where the reverberating sound of the pick and drill is not heard. The prospector's footsteps have traversed the vast mesa lands between the Hualapai and the Colorado river, rich auriferous ground has been encountered throughout that entire region. The pine clal hills of the Sierra Anchas have exposed some of the finest specimens of gold and silver of any portion of this vast area. The coal fields of the north, extending from Gallup, New Mexico into this territory, south and westward from St. John are untouched so far as production is concerned; the magnificent onyx of Yavapai and the same stone on the upper Cave Creek in this country are unsurpassed in their texture and color. Black onyx on the Grand Canyon and asbestos have been discovered. That her mines are wealth producers and not pockets from which small quantities of rich mineral is extracted and barrenness follows, is proven by the old Vulture mine which as a gold producer has made more fortunes than the entire sum expended in prospecting in Arizona would amount to. For over ten years one hundred stamps were running day and night crushing over three hundred tons every twenty-four hours. The Silver King in Pinal county sent its rich surface ores to San Francisco, freighted it by teams to Yuma and then by water when the freight rates were over five cents per pound. The Grand Central and other

silver mines of Tombstone have sent out their millions to the world's supply of the precious metal. The Clifton copper mines shipped by ox teams its surface ores to New Mexico, and still left a profit to its owners. The old Mowry mine in Harshaw was worked in the days of civil strife for its lead, which was carried from there to fill the demand in the army of the southern confederacy. All along the southern tier of counties in this territory are found traces of smelters erected by the Jesuit Fathers who first hoisted the torch of civilization in this land. And yet the half has not been told of our boundless wealth in minerals.—Phoenix Gazette.

Hetty Greene at Home.

"Hetty Green, 'the richest woman in America,' writes Leigh Mitchell Hodges, in the June Ladies' Home Journal, 'lives modestly in two small flats in a brick block in Hoboken, New Jersey. There are two electric push-bells at the door, under each of which one finds the name 'C. Dewey.' Mrs. Green prefers that the public should not know where her home is situated, and she uses this name because her pet dog's name is Dewey, and she commonly calls it 'Cutie.' The parlor is in the lower suite, and is a little larger than a good-sized closet. A couch, a small table and three chairs are the furnishings and the ornamentation is quite as simple.

"Mrs. Green is a rapid talker. Words seem to come to her as easily as dollars. She is witty, too, and these gifts, with her remarkable memory and pleasant voice, make her an excellent conversationalist. Her daily routine is more severe than that of any other living millionaire, perhaps. She rises early, eats a light breakfast in the little dining room of the Hoboken flat, and hurries off to the ferry. It is only a short distance from her home to the ship, and she always walks, be the weather what it may. Her husband, E. H. Green, who is seldom seen or heard of, is an old man, almost eighty, and somewhat of an invalid. The upper one of the two flats is called his, and there, in a plainly furnished sitting room, he sits day in and day out while his wife is in New York looking after her financial affairs. When she comes home in the evening—it is always late—she sometimes reads to him.

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